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Sir George Grey was much applauded on rising to address the Section. He made a powerful and impressive speech in behalf of the colonies, and in condemnation of our present colonial policy, which was repeatedly interrupted by cheers. He thanked Mr. Hamilton, who, he believed, had come forward entirely unsolicited by the colony, for standing forward as he had done as the friend and advocate of the cause of New Zealand in her greatest need, and he thanked the Association for bending from its graver and more scientific pursuits, to consider for a short time the situation of our countrymen. He felt certain that when the news reached New Zealand that this Association had deigned to consider the state of that unfortunate colony, it would carry joy to many a home, and Mr. Hamilton's name would be mentioned with the gratitude which it deserved. New Zealand deserved the sympathy and aid of Great Britain. The agents of our Government undoubtedly brought the present war upon New Zealand. When it began, the British Government determined that the war should be prosecuted to a successful issue. They said the natives must be made to feel once for all, that they were engaged in a contest with a superior race. Whereupon the inhabitants of the colony raised 3,000,000*l.* to help the war; 7,000 men were kept in the field; the whole business was under the management of the Home Government, and at the end of three years the enterprise was a failure, and the Government determined to withdraw its troops, and leave the colonists to their own resources in the war. At that time the country was in a state of civil war. The troops were, however, withdrawn, and the colonists had not the slightest voice in the manner of that withdrawal. He (Sir George) would always maintain, that even if they looked upon the relation between Great Britain and New Zealand as a partnership, one party had no right so to abandon the other; and if such a question were submitted to impartial arbitration, it would be decided that Great Britain was liable to large damages for the manner in which her Government had acted. That was only a question of one colony. Behind this lay the much graver question, and that was the question of the disruption of the British Empire. It was evident that a considerable party in Great Britain were determined that the colonies should be detached from the empire, and steps were being taken to bring about that result. The Australian colonies were founded by a set of men who believed it possible to set up one of the greatest empires the world had ever seen. Sir George Grey spoke eloquently of this grand idea of a vast Anglo-Saxon English-speaking empire, in the foremost rank of civilisation, enterprise, liberality, and humanity, calculated to advance the happiness and well-being of the human race, and said that if Great Britain disappointed this noble feeling, which existed with more or less definiteness in the minds of all our colonists, they would turn their eyes in the direction

of the United States, and look to them to carry out the great idea. He trusted England would consider deeply before she cast away from her the splendid future that was embraced in the idea of a grand Anglo-Saxon empire. Returning to the condition of New Zealand, Sir George said the colonists had begged of the British Government that they would allow a regiment to remain in the colony three months longer, until the colony had time to recover from the position in which she was placed, and the answer was: "No, we will withdraw the troops at once, at all risks, at all hazards, even if you are driven out of the island." He maintained that it would have been but a slight thing for England to have kept a regiment in the island for two or three months longer. Then it was suggested that the British Government should simply guarantee a loan of 1,500,000*l.*, to enable New Zealand to fight this battle out with the natives, and even that was refused, though it would have saved the island. He feared that that which was the fate of New Zealand now, might be ours another time. If, unfortunately, we should find ourselves at war with the United States, he very much feared that we should find the sympathies of the colonies would be against us. His earnest prayer was that England would not permit anything of this kind to take place. He thought the time was come when Great Britain should assume the empire which belonged to her, and govern it on those advanced principles of peace and progress which would secure to that wide dominion such benefits as no country in the world had known hitherto. He earnestly prayed that such might be the conclusion at which this great country would arrive.





